

## Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff / Coroner Coroner's Bureau, 2901 Peralta Oaks Ct, Oakland, CA 94605 (510) 382-3000 / (510) 382-3033 (fax)

## **Coroner Investigator's Report**

	NAME OF	DECEAGE	D C ACT FINOTAGE	.5		1	1780 CT 15						
0	NAME OF DECEASED (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE)					IEN	TENTATIVE ID UNIDENTIFIED					CASE NUMBER	
CALL INFO	SINGH, Balvir REPORTED BY REPORTED BY PHONE NO.					DED	DETING ACENCY	· L	<u>J</u>			2016-02106 REFERENCE NUMBER	
	R. Lacer #1669			ONE NO.	NO. REPORTING AGENCY  Santa Rita								
			9	CALL DATE AND T	IME		TYPE				W. T. 100000	16-012433	) 
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	Matthew Meldrum  DATE AND TIME OF DEATH			7/15/2016 10:40 DATE OF BIRTH   AGE			Removal Case  GENDER RACE MA				MARITAL	CTATUS	VET?
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DECEDENT	7/15/2016 10:19 HGT   WGT   EYE COLOR			HAIR COLOR					II THUIAT	1 1			
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	64   164   Brown   Black   Unknown												
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	Sum	ımary	*-										_
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	LOCATION (	OF DEATH								*	LOD	TYPE .	
	Santa Ri	ta Jail									Oth	er	
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) COUNTY												
	5325 Bro	oder Bo	oulevard Dubl	in CA 94568									
	5325 Broder Boulevard Dublin CA 94568						Alameda						
****	Manner Suicide Death Certificate Signed By: R. Plasencia, Deputy Sheriff								iu				
DEATH	Cause A Asphyxiation					Interval Minutes							
Ш	Cause B Hanging					Interval Minutes							
	Cause C							Interv	ral .				
	Cause D						• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				Interv	/al	• •
	m		None										
	Other Significant Conditions												
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NOTIFICATION	NOTIFIED BY				METHOD				DATE AND TIME				
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E						Phone Contact				7/16/2016 0:00			
ž	IDENTIFICATION METHOD Finger Prints				7/19/2016 7:36								
	LOCATION O	<u> </u>	JT.			719/2010	7.50						
<u>.                                    </u>			41.					,			Å	AT WORK	
INCIDENT	Santa Rita Jail ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)						COUNTY						
	5325 Broder Blvd Dublin CA 94568					DATE					ND TIME OF INCI 2016 9:40	DENT	
						Alameda				1/13/2	.010 9.40		
	INVESTIGATING AGENCY					INV AGENCY PHONE NUMBER OFFICER							
	Alameda County Sheriff's Office-ETS						Joshua Armijo						
DISP	FUNERAL HOME				•*	l	BODY RELEASED TO FUNERAL HOME ON						
	Chapel of The Chimes - Hayward				<i></i>		7/29/2016		13:50				<del>-</del>
	Full Autopsy Partial Autopsy Inspection Record Review Inspection w					Specimen	i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e						
***	▼ □ □ □ Thomas W. Rogers												



#### **Investigator Narrative**

Decedent: Case Number: SINGH, Balvir 2016-02106

Investigator:

**Matthew Meldrum** 

#### **First Call Information:**

On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1040 hours, I (Meldrum) spoke to Alameda County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant R. Lacer #1669 who called to report the in-custody suicide death of a 44 year old male identified as Balvir Singh. Lieutenant Lacer told me, about 0940 hours, during the Santa Rita Jail - Housing Unit #9 "Pod Time," an inmate advised the Housing Unit Deputies that Singh was inside his cell (B-9) and needed assistance. A deputy responded to the cell and saw Singh unresponsive with a jail issued sheet tied around his neck. The opposite end of the sheet was tied and suspended around the top of the jail cell's permanent stool. The responding deputy radioed for immediate medical assistance and attempted CPR until medical staff arrived, but ultimately all life saving measures failed, and death was pronounced at 1019 hours by Corizon Dr Molitorisz. At the time of this incident, Singh was not on an Intensive Observation Log (IOL) and was the only occupant of his cell. Singh was classified as a Mental Health Inmate with prior safety cell placements.

(Coroner's Case #2014-01574). (MMM1859)

#### **Medical Summary:**

While at Santa Rita Jail, I (Meldrum) received a copy of Singh's medical records. I placed the records into the pathologist packet for review. (MMM1859)

#### Description of the Death/ Injury Scene:

Singh was pronounced dead, just outside of Cell B-9, Housing Unit 9, at the Santa Rita Jail, located at 5325 Broder Boulevard, in the City of Dublin.

Singh was found suspended with a sheet tied around his neck inside his jail cell (B-9). (MMM1859)

#### **Body Identification:**

While on scene, I (Meldrum) received a copy of Singh's Criminal Records Information Management System (CRIMS) record which included a booking photograph from 2014. I compared the photograph to the decedent and they appeared to match. (MMM1859)

On July 19, 2016, I (Gogna) received a letter from the Alameda County Central Identification Bureau (CIB) confirming that the fingerprints taken from the decedent was associated with Person File Number: with the name Balvir Singh. (AG#1303)

Next of Kin Investigation:
On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1451 hours, I (Meldrum) spoke to Singh's brother-in-law,
who called to provide me next of kin information. told me Singh was not married and did not have
children. said Singh's father, and mother, and mother, lived in provided
me contact information for Singh's parents, but said he would notify them of the death, due to the fact



they did not speak English. I explained the coroner's involvement and told that Singh's parents were the legal next of kin and would be in charge of authorizing funeral arrangements. told me he would contact me after Singh's parents were notified of the death. (MMM1859) On July 16, 2016, I (Bordi) received a call from who identified himself as Singh's friend. said he was calling from and heard Singh was deceased. said he did not know Singh's family but was from the same village. said he would try and notify one of Singh's cousins. (EB1879) On Saturday, July 16, 2016, about 1630 hours, I (Meldrum) spoke to who told me he was a friend of Singh's. told me Singh's father passed away a few years ago and his mother was said Singh's mother, was notified of the death, but wished to authorize someone in the United States to start funeral arrangements. I explained the procedure and told Singh's mother email the Coroner's Bureau stating who she wished to authorize and to attach a photograph of her passport. (MMM1859) On Friday, July 22, 2016, about 1615 hours, I (Meldrum) spoke to Singh's friend, advised that Singh's mother had signed a form authorizing told me she spoke to Singh's mother. her to make funeral arrangements. I provided my email and the Coroner's Bureau fax number to send a copy of the form. (MMM1859) On Wednesday, July 27, 2016, about 0730 hours, I (Meldrum) received an email from which included a document signed by Singh's mother, authorizing to make funeral arrangements. The document also included a and photo copy of identification card. I placed the documents into the case file. (MMM1859)

#### **Other Agency Reports:**

Alameda County Sheriff's Officer Deputy B. Sill #1781 wrote report #16-012433. (MMM1859)

On September 07, 2016, about 0550 hours, I (Meldrum) received a copy of the report. I reviewed the report and discovered the following information:

Singh was found unresponsive by an inmate at the end of "pod time." The Housing Unit Technician had opened all the cell doors so inmates could enter their cells. An inmate was checking the cell doors on the upper tier to insure they were all locked. The inmate then noticed Singh's cell door was unlocked and saw Singh unresponsive on the floor. The inmate then pressed an emergency button and told the Housing Unit Technician what he saw. (MMM1859)

#### **Property and Evidence:**

I (Meldrum) issued coroner's receipt #37151 to Deputy Sill for Singh's body and property. (MMM1859)

#### **Coroners Fees:**

There were coroner's fees for body removal, body preparation, and the filling of the death certificate totaling \$540 associated with this case. (MMM1859)

On August 31, 2016, the fees were paid in full. (MMM1859)





### **Investigative Details:**

On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1140 hours, Deputy E. Bordi #1879 and I (Meldrum) arrived at Santa Rita Jail. We met with Deputy Sill inside Housing Unit #9 who told me the following:

Singh was classified as a Mental Health Inmate with prior and and
. About 0630 hours, Singh's cell mate,
(PFN: was removed from Cell B-9 by Security Movement Deputies for his scheduled
release. About 0830 hours, Housing Unit #9 started "Pod Time," but Singh did not exit his cell. All cell
doors inside the Housing Unit were locked and secured before "Pod Time" began. About 0909 hours,
Housing Unit #9 Deputy Bump conducted a general observation of the Housing Unit and signed the
General Observation Log (GOL). About 0920 hours, an inmate witness said he saw Singh standing at his
cell door looking through the window. At that time, Singh's cell door was locked and he was the only
inmate inside the cell. About 0940 hours, an inmate told one of the Housing Unit Deputies that Singh was
inside his cell (B-9) and needed assistance. The deputy responded to the cell and saw Singh unresponsive
with a jail issued sheet tied around his neck. The opposite end of the sheet was tied and suspended around
the cell's stool. The deputy said Singh was in a semi-supine position and it appeared as if there was
pressure applied to his neck due to his positioning. The deputy cut the sheet from Singh's neck and
radioed for medical assistance. The deputy then started cardiopulmonary resuscitations (CPR) until
Corizon medical staff responded and took over. Corizon Dr S. Molitorisz responded and pronounced
death, at 1019 hours, after all life saving measures were unsuccessful.

When I arrived, I saw Singh lying supine on the upper-tier of B-Pod, just outside of Cell #9, with medical therapy in place. Rigor mortis was absent and lividity was consistent with his positioning. I saw about a one centimeter laceration on Singh's nose and a golf ball sized contusion on his forehead. I saw no other obvious signs of visible trauma on Singh's body. I looked inside Singh's cell and saw a blue jail issued sheet on the floor near a stool. The sheet appeared to be knotted into a loop on one end and the opposite end appeared as if it was wound tight multiple times and was cut with a sharp object. Due to the sheet's configuration, its length was about a foot long.

I searched Singh's cell for a suicide note or letter of intent. I found a hand written note on top of Singh's bed, inside of a book, but it was written in Punjabi. I collected the note as evidence in hopes to have it translated.

Deputy Bordi took digital photographs of Singh, the scene, and the handwritten note. Deputy Bordi and I then prepared Singh for transportation back to the Coroner's Bureau. (MMM1859)

On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1351 hours, Deputy Bordi and I returned to the Coroner's Bureau. Deputy Bordi took intake photographs of Singh and we processed him into the morgue. (MMM1859)

On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1520 hours, I (Meldrum) spoke to Alameda County Sheriff's Office Detective J. Armijo #1029 who called to tell me a Fremont Police Officer, Officer M. Gebhardt, was willing to translate the hand written note found inside Singh's cell. Detective Armijo provided me with Officer Gebhardt's email address. (MMM1859)



On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1525 hours, I (Meldrum) spoke to Alameda County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant R. Bowers who advised me to email a copy of the hand written note to Fremont Officer Gebhardt for translation. (MMM1859)

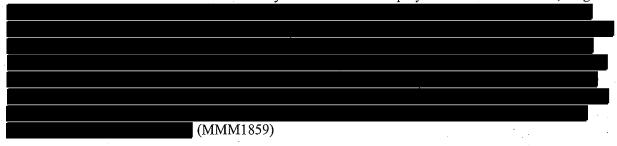
On Friday, July 15, 2016, about 1541 hours, I (Meldrum) emailed a photograph of the hand written note found inside Singh's cell to Fremont Officer Gebhardt for translation. (MMM1859)

On Monday, July 18, 2016, about 1045 hours, Coroner's Pathologist Dr T. Rogers conducted Singh's autopsy. Dr Rogers determined Singh's cause of death to be "Asphyxiation, due to Hanging." (MMM1859)

On Tuesday, July 19, 2016, Central Valley Toxicology (CVT) received Singh's femoral blood sample. CVT conducted a complete drug screen of the sample and found a result finding of < 0.05 mg/L of Mirtazapine in the sample, which was listed within the effective level of (0.02-0.30 mg/L). (MMM1859)

On August 18, 2016, at 0639 hours, Fremont Police Officer Gebhardt emailed me (Meldrum) requesting a scanned copy of the letter found inside Singh's cell. Officer Gebhardt said his translator was unable to read the original photograph I emailed him. About 1333 hours, I emailed Officer Gebhardt a scanned copy of the note. (MMM1859)

On September 06, 2016, I (Meldrum) received an email from Fremont Police Officer Gebhardt which included the translation of the hand written note that I found inside Singh's cell and also another hand written note which was found inside the cell by a Santa Rita Jail Deputy. Inside the note I found, Singh



#### **Findings:**

On Wednesday, September 06, 2016, about 0610 hours, I (Meldrum) reviewed this case to determine a manner of death. Based on my investigation, the autopsy protocol, and the letter of intent found inside Singh's cell; I determined the manner of this death to be a suicide. (MMM1859)

#### **Supervisor Review:**

On Thursday, September 08, 2016, I (Sgt. Baron) reviewed this case and found it to be complete. I concur with the findings and approve this case for closure. (HB#2017)

## Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Coroner's Bureau 2901 Peralta Oaks Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94605-5319



## Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff

Director of Emergency Services Coroner - Marshal

#### MEMORANDUM

DATE:

July 18, 2016

FROM:

Thomas Wayne Rogers, M.D.

TO:

Case File 2016-02106

SUBJECT:

AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

Autopsy performed upon the body of Balvir Singh at the Coroner's Bureau, 2901 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, California, on July 18, 2016, at 9:05 a.m.

## AUTOPSY FINDINGS

- 1) HANGING:
  - A) NOOSE SUBMITTED WITH BODY.
- 2) PULMONARY CONGESTION AND EDEMA.
- 3) VISCERAL ORGAN CONGESTION.

CAUSE OF DEATH: ASPHYXIATION DUE TO HANGING.

cc: Emergency Medical Services

District Attorney

Investigations Bureau (ETS) ACSO-Detention and Corrections

1	EXTERNAL	EXAMINAT	ION

- 2 The body is that of a male appearing the stated age of 44
- 3 years. There is a Coroner's identification tag present on the
- 4 left big toe. The body is 64 inches long and weighs 164 pounds.
- 5 The body is presented supine and nude. Paper bags cover
- 6 the distal aspects of both arms.
- 7 The body is clothed in orange shorts and an orange,
- 8 slipover T-shirt. The right sleeve has been cut away from the
- 9 body. The left arm is still present in the left sleeve.
- 10 Rigor mortis is passing. Lividity is present over the
- 11 backside of the body.
- 12 There is the following evidence of MEDICAL THERAPY:
- 1) An oral Combitube secured around the neck.
- 14 2) A stiff neck collar in place about the neck.
- 15 3) Cardiac monitoring pads on both upper arms and both
- 16 lower legs.
- 4) Electrical conduction pads on the torso.
- 18 5) An intraosseous infusion device in the left lower leg.
- 19 There are the following BLUNT INJURIES to the body:
- 20 HEAD AND NECK:
- 21 1) A 1-1/2 inch area of red contusing to the left side of
- 22 the forehead.

- 2) A 1/2-inch red contusion on the bridge of the nose. In
- 24 the center of it are two black abrasions ranging upwards to 1/4
- 25 inch in greatest dimension.
- 26 RIGHT ARM:
- None present.
- 28 LEFT ARM:
- None present.
- 30 RIGHT LEG:
- 31 1) A 1/2-inch red contusion over the patella.
- 32 LEFT LEG:
- 1) A 1-inch vague red contusion over the inferior border
- 34 of the patella.
- 2) A 1/4-inch red-brown abrasion on the anterior-medial
- 36 proximal lower leg.
- 37 TORSO:
- None present.
- The hair is black and about 6 inches long. Pupils are
- 40 round. Irides are brown. Sclerae are congested. No petechial
- 41 hemorrhages are noted. Ears, nose and lips are without further
- 42 abnormalities. Short, unshaven facial hair growth is present.
- The neck is nonremarkable. An actual ligature furrow is
- 44 not identified.

- 45 Presented in a plastic bag is a dark blue sheet. Its exact 46 size is not determined. Present within it is a complex sort of 47 knot. Extending off this is a loop measuring at least 12 to 14 48 inches in diameter. In addition, extending off the complex knot 49 are two more extensions of the sheet. One is about 18 inches in 50 length. Another is about 28 inches in length which has a 51 complex knot at the end of it, and extending off the knot are at 52 least two short ends that appear to have been either cut or torn 53 along their borders. In addition, in the bag is a piece of blue 54 material. This may represent a portion of the sheet. 55 knotted into a loop measuring about 4 to 5 inches in diameter. 56 The chest is flat. Breasts are consistent with an adult 57 The abdomen is flat. The external genitalia are normal. male. 58 Legs and feet are without further abnormalities. 59 Arms and hands are nonremarkable. No needle puncture marks 60 are noted. No scars are noted over the anterior wrists. 61 hyperpigmented scars are over accessible veins. 62 The back is nonremarkable.
- 63 INTERNAL EXAMINATION
- The body is opened through the usual Y-SHAPED INCISION.
- 65 There is a transverse fracture of the sternum, and there are a
- 66 few anterior rib fractures. These are fractured at their medial

- 67 ends. These are consistent with resuscitative measures.
- 68 Otherwise, no abnormalities are noted.
- 69 BODY CAVITIES: The pleural cavities, pericardial cavity
- 70 and peritoneal cavity are lined by smooth, glistening surfaces
- 71 and contain no fluid. Ribs and diaphragms are intact.
- 72 HEART: In situ, the heart is normal, with the apex at the
- 73 left midclavicular line. The heart weighs 360 grams. The
- 74 epicardial surface is smooth and glistening. Ventricular
- 75 myocardium is brown. Chambers are normal. Valves are normal.
- 76 No left ventricular hypertrophy is present. No asymmetric
- 77 hypertrophy is present. No myxoid degeneration of the mitral
- 78 valve is present. No vegetations are present on valve leaflets.
- 79 Coronary ostia are patent. The coronary system has its usual
- 80 anatomical distribution and is nonremarkable. No thrombi are
- 81 present. There is fluidity of blood.
- VESSELS: The aorta and tributaries are nonremarkable. The
- 83 pulmonary artery and venous system contain no thromboemboli.
- 84 TRACHEA AND BRONCHI: Lined by pale yellow mucosal
- 85 surfaces.
- 86 LUNGS: The left lung weighs 500 grams. The right lung
- 87 weighs 450 grams. Pleural surfaces are smooth. Lung parenchyma
- 88 is prominently congested and edematous. There are no areas of

- 89 consolidation. No pulmonary infarcts are present. No bronchial
- 90 asthma is identified. Airways of both lungs are nonremarkable.
- 91 No tumors are present. The arterial system of both lungs is
- 92 opened, and no thromboemboli or other abnormalities are
- 93 identified.
- 94 ORAL CAVITY: The teeth are natural. None are acutely
- 95 missing or loose. No abnormalities of the oral cavity are
- 96 noted.
- 97 ESOPHAGUS: Lined by a white, wrinkled mucosal surface.
- 98 STOMACH: Contains 100 cc of red-brown fluid. The mucosal
- 99 surface is tan. No tumors or ulcers are noted.
- 100 INTESTINES: Covered by smooth serosal surfaces. No
- 101 abnormalities are noted. The intestines are opened and only
- 102 fecal material is present. The rectum is palpated and no
- 103 abnormalities are noted.
- 104 LIVER: Weighs 2200 grams. The serosal surface is smooth
- 105 and glistening. The anterior margin is sharp. The parenchyma
- 106 is brown and moderately congested. No tumors are present. No
- 107 fatty metamorphosis or cirrhosis is present.
- 108 GALLBLADDER: The gallbladder is of normal size. Its
- 109 surface is smooth. Its wall is of normal thickness. It is
- 110 lined by a green velvety mucosal surface. It contains 10 cc of

- 111 bile and no stones.
- 112 PANCREAS: The pancreas is of normal size. Its parenchyma
- 113 is yellow-brown and lobulated. No tumors are present. No
- 114 saponification is noted.
- SPLEEN: The spleen weighs 150 grams. Its capsule is gray
- 116 and smooth. Its parenchyma is red-purple and soft.
- 117 ADRENAL GLANDS: The adrenals are normal in size and have
- 118 their usual triangular shape. Sectioning of them reveals non-
- 119 remarkable cortex and medullary parts. No hemorrhages are
- 120 present.
- 121 KIDNEYS: The left kidney weighs 130 grams. The right
- 122 kidney weighs 150 grams. Surfaces are smooth. Parenchyma is
- 123 brown and moderately congested. There is a distinct cortico-
- 124 medullary separation. Papillae are normal. The calyces and
- 125 pelves of both kidneys are nonremarkable. No obvious
- 126 abnormalities are noted of the ureters. No stones are present.
- 127 BLADDER: The bladder contains no urine. It is lined by a
- 128 tan mucosal surface. No trabeculation or tumors are present.
- 129 No diverticula are noted.
- 130 PROSTATE: The prostate is of normal size. Its parenchyma
- 131 is yellow-white and rubbery. No tumors are noted.
- 132 TESTICLES: Normal.

- MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: No abnormalities noted.
- 134 NECK: The hyoid bone and laryngeal structures are intact.
- 135 Soft tissue about the larynx is normal. The larynx is free of
- 136 obstructing material. Individual laryngeal structures are taken
- 137 down, and no abnormalities are noted. The cervical vertebral
- 138 column is nonremarkable. A cervical vertebral column fracture
- 139 is not present. The thyroid gland is of normal size.
- 140 Sectioning of it reveals a nonremarkable red-brown parenchyma.
- 141 CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: Soft tissue about the cranial
- 142 vault is normal. The brain weighs 1350 grams. The gyri and
- 143 sulci of the cerebral hemispheres are normal. Sectioning of the
- 144 brain reveals no abnormalities. No contusions are noted. The
- 145 ventricular system of the brain is nonremarkable. No subdural
- 146 or subarachnoid hemorrhages are present. The vessels at the
- 147 base of the brain are nonremarkable. Stripping the dura from
- 148 the inner table of the skull reveals no abnormalities.
- 149 SPECIMENS:
- 150 1) Heart's blood
- **151** 2) Leg blood
- **152** 3) Liver
- **153** 4) Gastric contents
- **154** 5) Tissue

155	6) Photographs	
156		
157	•	TM
158		
159		Thomas Wayne Rogers, M.D.
160		
161	TWR/cah	



Case Name:

**TOXICOLOGY NUMBER:** CVT-16-7752

Singh,

Balvir 20 ml femoral blood labeled "Singh, Balvir; 2016-02106; 07/18/2016"

Specimen Description:

**Delivered by** Tricor

**Date** 19-Jul-16

Bill Posey Received by

**Date** 19-Jul-16

Request: Complete Drug Screen

Agency Case # 2016-02106

Requesting Agency

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office

Attn: Acct's Payable

2901 Peralta Oaks Ct., 2nd Floor

Oakland CA 94605

**Report To** 

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office

Attn: Dr. Rogers

2901 Peralta Oaks Ct., 2nd Floor

Oakland CA 94605

Specimen: Femoral Blood Sample

RESULTS

Complete Drug Screen: Mirtazapine detected.

No other common acidic, neutral or basic drugs detected.

No Ethyl Alcohol detected.

Mirtazapine < 0.05 mg/L

Blood Mirtazapine Ranges

Effective Level: (0.02 - 0.30 mg/L) Potentially Toxic: (> 0.3 mg/L)

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S.N. KIMBLE

1580 Tollhouse Road Clovis, California 93611 Phone (559) 323-9940 Fax (559) 323-7502

B. L. Posey

July 21, 2016